LARGE MOVEMENTS OF HIGHLY VULNERABLE MIGRANTS IN THE AMERICAS FROM THE CARIBBEAN, LATIN AMERICA AND OTHER REGIONS

DESTINATIONS IN TRANSIT

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MAIN FINDINGS

- Although there are many Haitians within these flows of vulnerable migrants, there are also other nationals from the Caribbean and from Asian, African and South American countries who are in a vulnerable situation. These flows are heterogenous with regard to origin, as well as age and gender.

- Among these migration flows, there are regular migrants who have settled mainly in South American countries, particularly Brazil and Chile, in recent years. In some cases, the existence of sons and daughters of South American nationalities born to Caribbean fathers and mothers has been asserted.

- Transit from South America to North America of migrants from the Caribbean, Asia and Africa has been developing for around a decade. At present, migration flows have increased due to the socioeconomic crisis brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, disasters, and political instability in countries of origin and residence.

I. INTRODUCTION

Migration in South and Central America has undergone significant changes in the last two decades. Intraregional migration continues to be the most important in South America, mainly due to the large-scale movements of Venezuelan migrants and refugees in the last five years. Meanwhile, migration from Central America has increased significantly in recent years. In addition, the range of nationalities of migrants has become more diverse, and includes nationals from Caribbean countries and from other continents such as Asia and Africa.

Among the factors giving rise to the above-mentioned migration are income asymmetries, the lack of employment and opportunities, limited access to basic services, social violence, political conflicts, as well as disasters, including earthquakes and hurricanes, environmental degradation, and the adverse effects of climate change, and changes (whether perceived or real) in immigration measures at destinations such as those in North America and Europe.

Several countries in South America introduced specific and, at that time, exceptional migration rules for nationals coming from Caribbean countries and other continents in the last decade, which allowed them to live in these countries in a regular manner.

Some nationals from Haiti, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and African and Asian countries already living in Latin America, and others that arrived more recently, were forced to migrate or made the decision to migrate to other destinations in the north of the continent to be able to meet their basic needs due to the socioeconomic, health and political impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the increase in xenophobia. In addition, many were forced or decided to move due to disasters resulting from earthquakes and hurricanes, changes in the United States administration, and perception of changes in the country's migration policy. Due to the lack of regular routes for most of these migrants from other regions and the Caribbean, these movements tend to occur in an irregular manner. It should be noted that certain migrants from the Caribbean and African and Asian countries have children who are nationals of a South American country, so they are not exclusively migrants from the Caribbean and other regions, but also nationals from South American countries in transit to North America.

Attention was drawn to these movements firstly when the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Panama called a meeting in August 2021 with the Vice President and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, 2021; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama, 2021), and then a meeting was convened with high-level representatives from Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Panama, and the United States to discuss the irregular crossing of migrants into Central America, identify joint solutions, and establish a coordinated response (National Migration Agency – SNM, 2021a). Media and political attention to the situation of

Caribbean migrants along the border between the United States and Mexico in September 2021 also provided visibility to these movements that not necessarily have a recent origin but, in many cases, have been developing for several years.

This report seeks to account for the size, evolution and routes of these movements in recent years. It is not a sudden movement but is based on a set of factors and a diversity of migrants, and also on recent socioeconomic, health and political changes and measures in their previous countries of destination in South America, as well as in the countries of origin and transit of this migrant population. Understanding these factors allows a proper analysis to be carried out for developing public policies and measures that can ensure orderly, safe and regular migration while protecting the human rights of migrants. Furthermore, it should be clarified that this report does not seek to analyse the movements of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, as they are covered by the "Response Plan for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela."

The structure of the report reflects the migratory flow from the south of the continent since it has been the place of residence of many of these populations in the last year, and then goes on to describe the flow trends and relevant information in countries in the center and north of the continent.

II. NUMBER OF MIGRANTS FROM OTHER REGIONS IN SOUTH AMERICA

Table 1: Variation in migration from other regions in South America between 2010, 2015 and 2020

	2010	2015	2020	Relative variation % 2015–2020	Relative variation % 2010–2020
Africa	22,880	34,379	43,413	26	90
Asia	208,737	253,071	302,662	20	45
Caribbean	79,135	118,757	424,484	257	436
Central America	46,712	56,300	70,263	25	50
Europe	894,582	1,022,903	1,073,490	5	20
North America*	118,809	139,213	172,124	24	45
TOTAL	**1,370,855**	**1,624,623**	**2,086,436**	**24**	**52**

Source: UN DESA, 2020.
** Includes Canada, Mexico and the United States of America.*

A growing number of nationals from Caribbean countries, mainly Haiti, Cuba and the Dominican Republic (in order of magnitude), have migrated to South America in the last few decades. At present, the non-South American migrant population living in this region accounts for 21 per cent of total migration according to UN DESA data (2020), including nationals from African and Asian countries as well as from countries in the Americas, Europe, and Oceania. For instance, an increase was noted in the African population (90% between 2010 and 2020) and, moreover, new nationalities of origin were identified (Eritrea, Somalia, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, among others).

Asian migration is long standing, particularly from the China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. At present, the arrival of nationals from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, and the Syrian Arab Republic, among others, has been noted, although with a low population impact in quantitative terms. Records show an increase in this migrant population of 45 per cent between 2010 and 2020. However, the most remarkable increase was that of 436 per cent between 2010 and 2020 of nationals from Caribbean countries in the region (mainly from Haiti, Cuba and Dominican Republic)

HAITIAN MIGRATION IN SOUTH AMERICA

In 2010, Haiti was hit by an earthquake, leaving an estimated death toll of 220,000 to 300,000, 1.5 million internally displaced persons, and over 300,000 buildings destroyed (including official government buildings, airports and ports) (PAHO, 2012). This, moreover, generated flows of migrants travelling abroad (IOM, 2012). In 2010, Argentina, Chile, Ecuador and Peru did not require a visa for Haitian nationals, so these countries also served as entry points to Brazil. Subsequently, the trip continued by land to Brazil where they entered irregularly (IOM-IPPDH, 2017). A significant number of Haitians — both men and women — accessed humanitarian visa programmes and other instruments established by the Governments of Ecuador (in 2010, already ended), Brazil (in 2012), and Argentina (in 2017, already ended) (IOM, 2017).

In **Brazil**, Haitian nationals increased their share in the formal labour market exponentially, from 815 in 2011 to over 30,000 in 2015, also driven by the demand for labour to build the infrastructure for the 2014 Football World

Cup, especially in the city of Curitiba (Obmigra, n.d). As of 2012, and after the establishment of a humanitarian visa system, 48,361 visas had been granted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by May 2016. Over 40,000 permits were issued in Port-au-Prince through the Brazil Visa Application Centre managed by IOM, and around 7,800 at the Brazilian embassy in Quito, Ecuador (IOM, 2017). Furthermore, the number of registered long-term resident Haitian migrants showed a progressive increase between 2010 and 2017, from 483 to 5,528. There was a very sharp growth in 2018, to 16,943 and, in 2019, a slight decrease was noted, down to 15,679 (Obmigra, 2020).

In **Chile**, the Haitian population increased from 1,649 in 2014 (accounting for 0.4% of the total foreign population) to almost 183,000 in December 2020 (accounting for 12.5% of the country's total foreign population). This shows an exponential increase of 10,000 per cent within a period of just six years. The Haitian population currently ranks as the third nationality of migrants in Chile, only behind nationals from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela[1] and Peru (DEM, n.d; INE, 2021). This sudden increase led the Government of Chile to make a decision in April 2018 to add the requirement of obtaining a simple consular tourist visa for people of Haitian nationality. This visa has a maximum duration of 30 days and does not allow the change of migratory status within the country. Likewise, as of July 2018, Haitian citizens with relatives in Chile have been able to access a family reunification visa (for 12 months, renewable once), which then enables them to apply for permanent residence. Nevertheless, there were remarkable changes in the total number of regular entries by Haitians, which dropped by 93 per cent between 2017 and 2019 (based on SJM, 2020a).

On the other hand, it is important to note that irregular migrants who already live in Chile currently have the possibility of requesting a temporary visa under the Migration Regularization Process that started back in April 2021, based on the recently enacted Migration and Immigration Law. However, this process, which is completed in less than 30 days, requires the submission of a valid passport and a certified/apostilled criminal record certificate, documents that, in practice, are unobtainable for many Haitians due to challenges and delays related to the capacity of the Haitian Consulate in Chile.

III. MOVEMENTS TOWARDS THE NORTH

In the last decade, a growing flow of migrants from the Caribbean and other regions was noted on their way to North America, travelling firstly across South America, and then Central America, and Mexico. Within these groups, there are boys and girls born to Haitian fathers and mothers in countries such as Brazil and Chile, which partially transforms these movements into intraregional movements (Yates, 2021).

The recent departure of nationals from Caribbean countries and of residents from other regions in South American countries to North America occurs not only within a context of growing social violence, xenophobia, discrimination and racism towards several groups of foreigners in different countries of the region; the outflow also happens within a general framework of deepening poverty and inequality also due to the COVID-19 pandemic (ECLAC, 2020).

Within this context of growing poverty, unemployment and deterioration in the quality of jobs, regardless of the restrictions on international mobility in the countries of the region as a result of the pandemic, migrants from other regions and the Caribbean embark on a route with enormous risks. They cross the Darien gap, located on the border between Colombia and Panama, by sea and land, exposing themselves to the activity of armed groups, migrant smugglers, human traffickers, harassment and physical and psychological abuse and sexual violence, mainly against women. In addition, they traverse thousands of kilometers through the wilderness or sail in precarious conditions on their way to the north of the continent.

To a large extent, these are migrants who have been living in South American countries for years, who emigrated

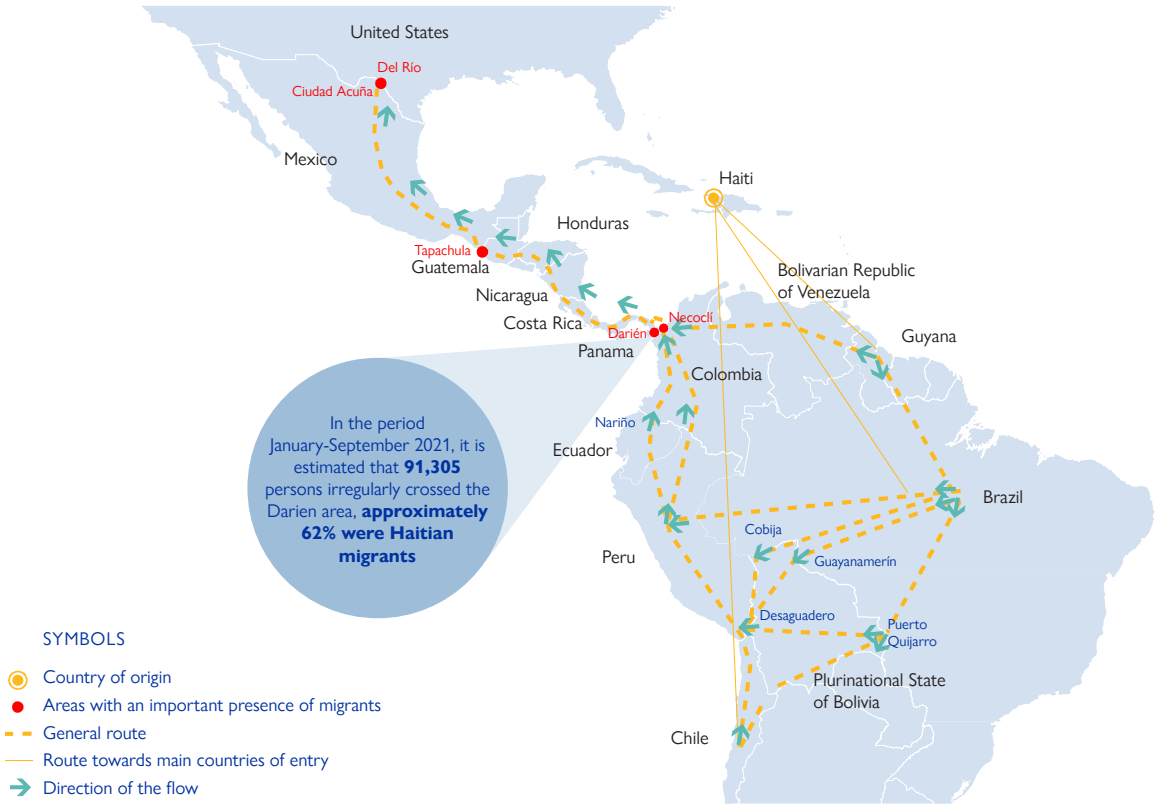
[1] hereinafter called Venezuela.

after the 2010 earthquake (in the case of Haitian nationals), and have been able to develop economic stability and integrate socially. As a result of the current socioeconomic crisis, and what it entails in terms of access to rights and uncertainty in the near future, particularly for South American countries, these people have been forced to seek destinations that provide them with better living conditions. On the other hand, the perception of the relaxation of restrictions on international mobility in 2021, besides the change in Presidential Administration in the United States and the perception by migrants of a more flexible migration policy, are among the factors leading to a growing migration towards the north of the continent (Yates, 2021). For instance, a survey recently carried out by IOM[2] among migrants in Chile on their intention to emigrate from that country, indicates that 25 per cent of the people interviewed voiced their intent to seek another country of destination, mentioning political uncertainty and economic difficulties as the main drivers (43% and 31%, respectively) (IOM, 2021a). Also, the foregoing is correlated to cross-cutting factors for their full development in the country, such as the severely limited capacities of the Haitian Embassy to authorize basic documentation, and the lack of information in Haitian Creole on public services available in Chile that has severely hindered the social and economic insertion of these migrants.

III.A MAIN ROUTES FROM SOUTH AMERICA TO THE NORTH AND MIGRANT DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES

Migrants from the Caribbean and other regions in their travels across South America to North America are mainly part of irregular flows, so the figures are partial and do not measure the phenomenon in its entirety. Recent data available indicate that it is mainly Haitian nationals who leave Chile and Brazil, together with their children born in the countries in which they resided in recent years, to travel across several countries in the region, including the Plurinational State of Bolivia,[3] Ecuador and Peru, on their way to the north (Yates, 2021).

Map 1: Haitian migrant routes identified in the Americas in the last decade



Note: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

Source: Servicio Nacional de Migración de Panamá, Irregulares en tránsito frontera Panamá-Colombia, n.d. (7 Oct 2021).

[2] Conducted by IOM Chile, in September 2021.

[3] hereinafter called Bolivia.

In this regard, since 2020, the number of Haitian migrants in transit through Bolivia from Brazil has increased considerably. Between 1 January and 12 August 2021, the General Migration Directorate identified 5,814 Haitian migrants in transit through Bolivia, crossing from Brazil at three border points: Puerto Quijarro (Department of Santa Cruz); Guayaramerin (Department of Beni), and Cobija (Department of Pando). Once in Bolivia, they go mainly to Desaguadero (a Bolivian municipality on the border with Peru) with the aim of continuing to the north of Peru and then on to Ecuador and Colombia as far as Central America (IOM, 2021b). Every week, 6 to 10 groups of between 10 to 60 Haitians cross the Bolivian-Brazilian border; these groups are mostly made up of young adults (30 to 45 years old), although children and adolescents have also been identified (ibid.).

Regarding the routes to leave Chile, key informants within the Haitian community have mainly reported two routes: (1) a flight from Santiago to Peru or Mexico, for those who can afford it; or (2) a flight from Santiago mostly to Arica or Iquique, to then start a journey walking to Colchane, on the border with Bolivia (the opposite route to the one currently taken by thousands of Venezuelans to enter Chile). On the other hand, regarding the characterization of this community in Chile, 61.2 per cent are men (38.8% women), 32.6 per cent live in poverty or extreme poverty, 36.5 per cent live in conditions of overcrowding or critical overcrowding, 61.7 per cent of those of working age were employed, and 13.1 per cent of them worked in informal occupations (SJM, 2020b).

In **Peru**, Haitian migrants travel daily across the southern border area of Puno in an irregular manner, bound for Peru and then destinations further north. Migrants are generally found in groups of 10 people, mostly young men. According to the last Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) completed in Puno in September 2021, it was noted that, in a single day, 370 Haitian migrants entered Peru across the border (Desaguadero, Puno), from Bolivia to Peru, travelling on barges and arriving at the dry port of Desaguadero in motorized vehicles bound for Lima or Arequipa, with a greater flow of people between 08:00 and 10:00 a.m. On the other hand, Haitian migrants who leave the country by crossing the southern border go to Tacna or Moquegua. For migrants, Peru is only a part of their journey, because most of them have an organized trip to Desaguadero —Lima— This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration. Tumbes (northern border of Peru), and they do not stay in the country more days than it takes to complete the trip. These travel groups are large and there is great coordination among them. They are self-financed and most do not seek donations (IOM, 2021c).

Peru's northern border area of Tumbes has also experienced an increase in populations from other regions, particularly of Haitian origin. For instance, in the period 9 to 30 August 2021, 3,645 Haitians were identified at the Carpitas Migration Verification Post (PVM) according to figures from the National Superintendency of Migration (SNM known by the Spanish acronym) and, in the period 1 to 26 September 2021, 3,481 were identified. And the last DTM at Tumbes in September 2021 showed that 177 Haitians had left Peruvian territory through places near the Bolsico Bridge (Peru–Ecuador Binational Bridge) in Tumbes: mostly male population with high flows between 2:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., and with respect to travel characteristics, Haitian migrants use different means to cross the border. However, the DTM exercise showed that most of them cross the border on foot (IOM, 2021d).

In **Ecuador**, the number of migrants from other regions increased dramatically in 2015 and 2016, coming mainly from Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. As of July 2021, the profile of the migrant population from other regions in the country is mainly male, 18 to 35 years old, on average. The main nationalities identified in the country are people coming from Haiti, Cuba, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo and India (IOM, 2021e).

III.B MIGRATION BETWEEN COLOMBIA AND PANAMA IN THE DARIEN AREA

Over 90 per cent of the irregular inflows registered in Colombia occur through the department of Nariño (on the border with Ecuador); they come from the south, from countries like Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Peru and Ecuador. Subsequently, they continue through departments in the western region, the cities of Cali and Popayan, from where the migration authorities have coordinated the transfer of 6,600 Haitian migrants to Necoclí, on the border with Panama (Migración Colombia, 2021a).

As of 10 September 2021, around 14 thousand migrants, mostly of Haitian nationality, were stranded in Necoclí waiting to enter Panama within the framework of a quota policy that authorizes 500 people per day to officially cross the border. It should be noted that between 1,000 and 1,200 people arrive in the region every day, which is why 700 migrants are retained in Necoclí (ibid) daily, an area with a porous border.

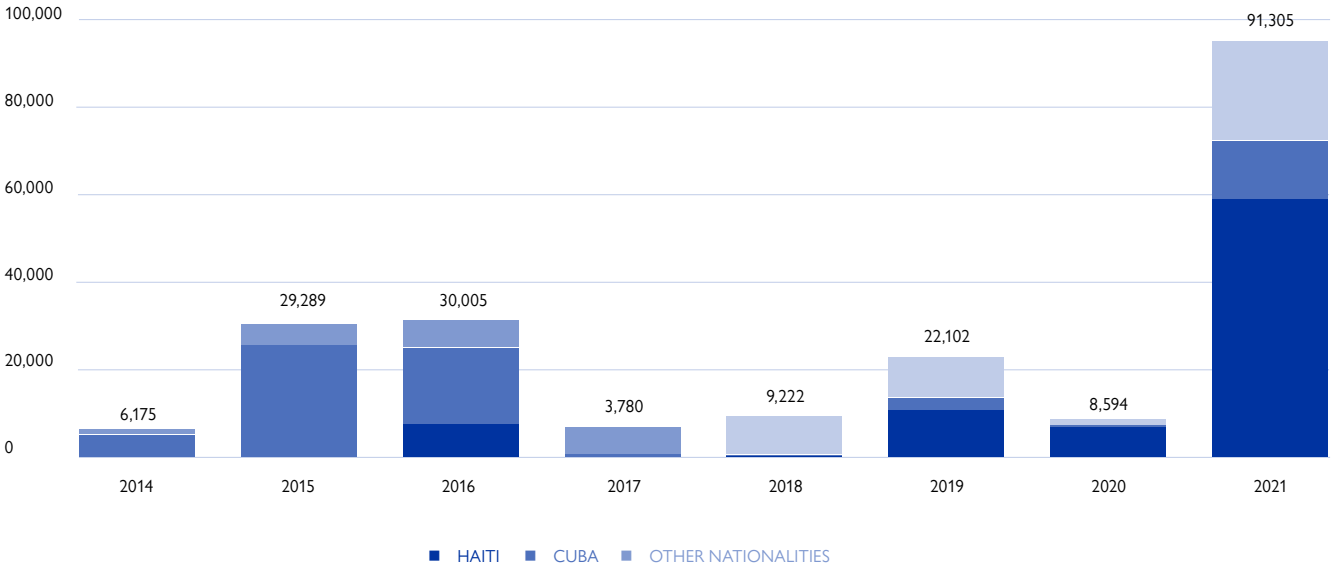
TRANSIT THROUGH DARIEN IN THE LAST FEW YEARS

The conditions for crossing from Colombia to Panama are relatively unique in the region due to the geographic conditions of the Darien gap. The Darien is a dense tropical rainforest, where migrants must cross the jungle along improvised trails with "guides" and without adequate preparation to do so. The crossing is estimated to last five to seven days, with no access to food, water, health services or other services. Furthermore, subversive and paramilitary groups live in the Darien jungle which increases the insecurity that characterizes the Darien crossing. Once migrants cross from Colombia to Panama, their vulnerability drastically changes as a result of this crossing.

The flow of migrants from the Caribbean has been happening in the area at least since 2014; and until 2016 this population was a majority. In subsequent years, that is in 2017 and 2018, migrants of Asian and African nationalities were quite common in the area, even surpassing the number of Caribbean migrants. The main nationalities identified at that time were from the following countries: Nepal, India, Bangladesh and Cameroon. In 2019, on the border between Colombia and Panama, 10,235 irregular Caribbean migrants were registered (exponentially higher than the 744 in 2018). Irregular migrants from African countries (according to the Government of Panama) increased significantly in 2018 and 2019, from 2,958 to 5,286, accounting for a 79 per cent increase (IOM, 2019).

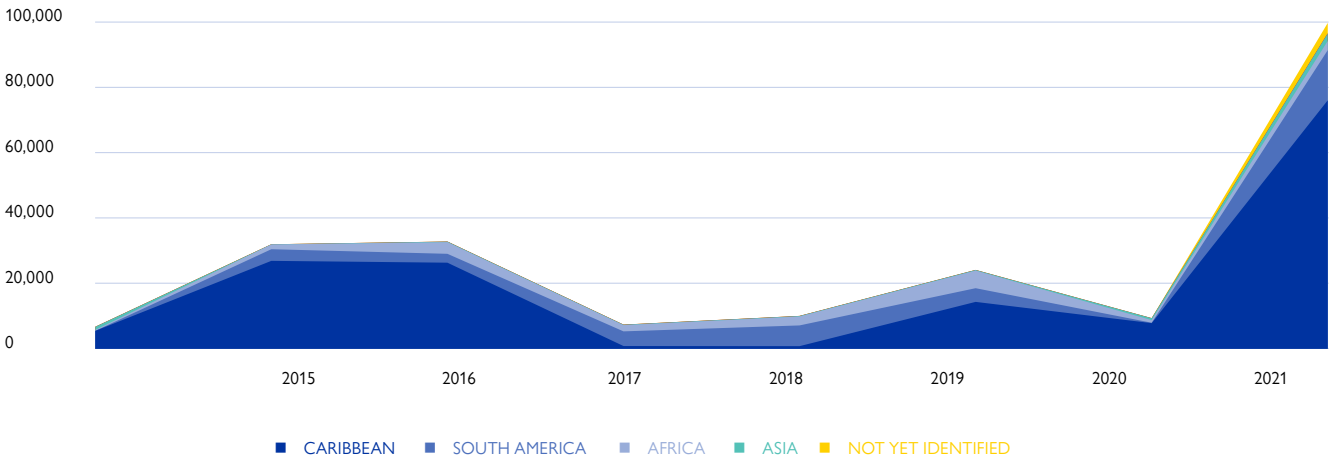
TRANSIT ACROSS THE DARIEN IN 2021

Graph 1: Irregular transit of foreigners across the Darien, by nationality, 2014–2021 (January–September)



Source: Servicio Nacional de Migración de Panamá, Irregulares en tránsito frontera Panamá-Colombia, n.d. [07 Oct 2021].

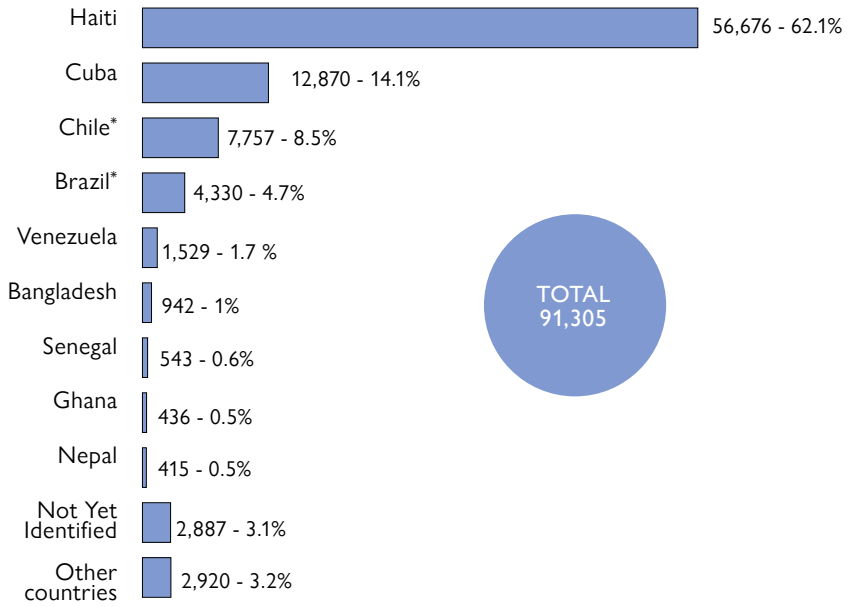
Graph 2: Annual irregular travel of foreigners across the Colombia–Panama border (the Darien area), by region of origin, 2014–2021 (January–September)



Note: The category "not yet identified" refers to migrants not yet registered by nationality and living in the Canan Membrillo and Bajo Chiquito communities. The category includes people from Central America, North America, Europe and Eurasia.
Source: Servicio Nacional de Migración de Panamá, Irregulares en tránsito frontera Panamá-Colombia, n.d. [07 Oct.].

In the period January–September 2021, the Panamanian authorities reported 91,305 people of different nationalities travelling irregularly across the Darien area, the highest figure compared to previous years. It is estimated that 62 per cent were Haitians and 14 per cent Cubans (SNM, 2021b). Among other people identified were the sons and daughters of Haitian nationals born in Brazil and Chile.

Graph 3: Main nationalities of foreigners travelling irregularly across the Colombian border (Darien area), 2021 (January–September)

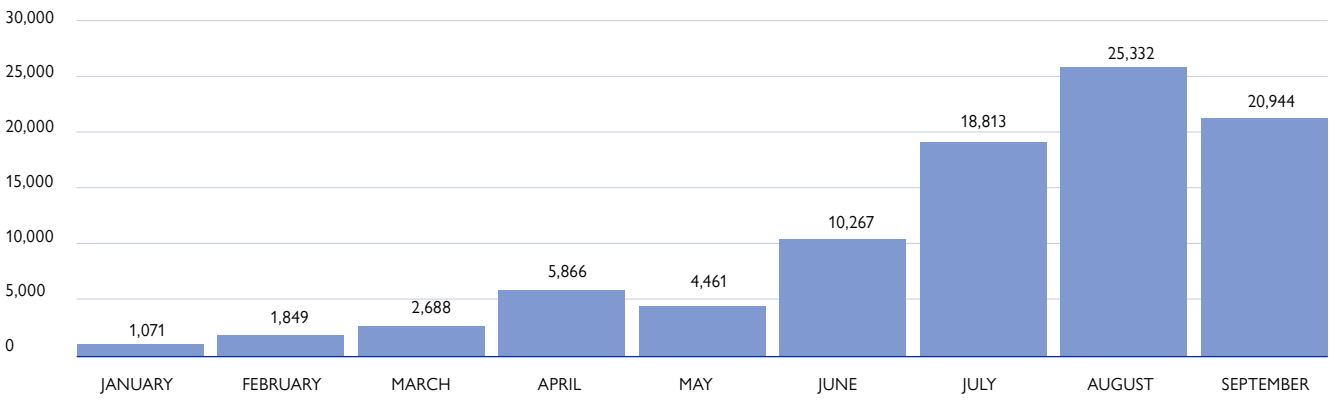


Other identified nationalities	
India	294
Nepal	293
Angola	250
Democratic Republic of Congo	186
Cameroon	180
Guinea	179
Burkina Faso	127
Ecuador	127
Sierra Leone	108
Nigeria	92
Guyana	88
Togo	79
Mauritania	77
Eritrea	75
Pakistan	74
Dominican Republic	73
**Remaining countries	618
Total	2,920

Source: Servicio Nacional de Migración de Panamá, Irregulares en tránsito frontera Panamá-Colombia, n.d. [07 Oct 2021].
* Sons and daughters of Haitian citizens whose births were recorded in these countries.
** Remaining countries include: Uruguay, Colombia, Mali, Argentina, Somalia, Cote d'Ivoire, Peru, Yemen, Panama*, Sri Lanka and in the Category "Other countries" are those in which the source does not include a breakdown by nationality.
Note: The category "not yet identified" refers to migrants not yet registered by nationality and living in the Canan Membrillo and Bajo Chiquito communities.

Due to the impact of mobility restrictions because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the records reflected a decline in entries and movements on the Panamanian border; in 2020, around 2,500 migrants were stranded at the Migration Reception Stations (known by the Spanish acronym ERM) of the Darien (in Panama) as a result of the closure of international borders. However, in 2021, this has changed and there has been an exponential increase: from July to August there was an increase of approximately 35 per cent (SNM, 2021b). August has so far been the month with the highest figures this year (Ibid.).

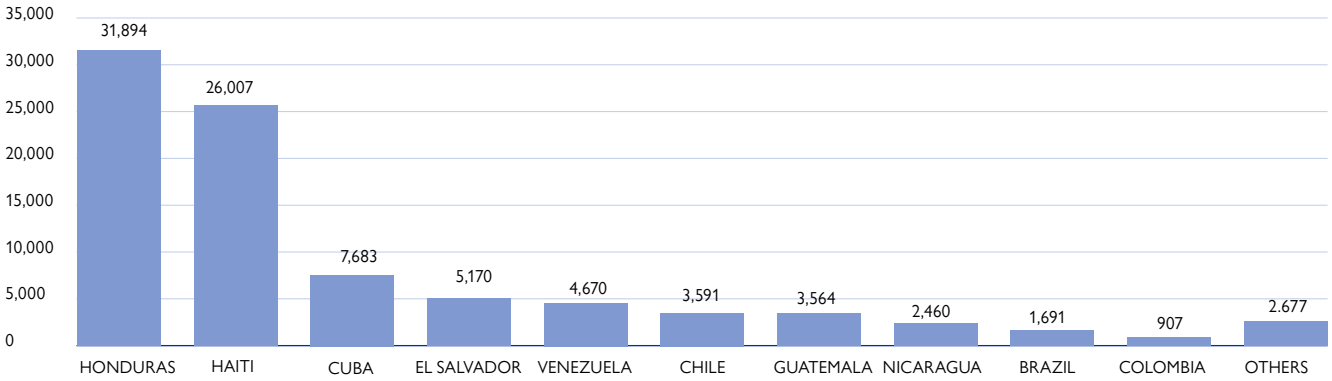
Graph 4: Monthly irregular transit of foreigners across the Darien area, January–September 2021.



Source: Prepared by the authors based on information from the Servicio Nacional de Migración de Panamá, Tránsito frontera Panamá-Colombia, n.d. [07 Oct 2021].

When moving along the route across Central America, migrants heading to Mexico enter the country through Tapachula, a border city with Guatemala, which is considered a transit and temporary stay zone for these flows. A large number of migrants wait in this town to carry out regularization procedures at the National Migration Institute of Mexico, and for the registration and resolution of refugee status requests submitted to the Mexican Commission for Refugee Aid (known by the Spanish acronym COMAR) (IOM, 2020). The number of registrations for the period January–September 2021 exceeds by more than 28 per cent the total for 2019 (19,908 more requests), and by 120 per cent the 2020 figures (49,255 more requests). Haiti and Cuba appear as the nationalities with the highest number of migrants, together with Honduras, with an even higher number (COMAR, 2021).

Graph 5: Main nationalities requesting refugee status in Mexico, January–September 2021



Source: Comisión Mexicana de Ayuda a Refugiados (COMAR), n.d., [07 October 2021].

IV. CURRENT EMERGENCY SITUATION: VULNERABILITIES AND RISKS IDENTIFIED ALONG BORDER AREAS

In **Bolivia**, it has been noted that migrant smugglers charge between USD 300 and USD 500 for the trip from Brazil across unofficial border crossings to enter Bolivia arriving at cities such as Pailon, Warnes and Montero. After that, migrants avoid going through the city of Santa Cruz where there are more police checks, and are then transferred to Cochabamba, later to La Paz, and finally to Desaguadero, a city on the border with Peru, where they continue their journey north. Another route takes people to Oruro and Pisiga (on the border with Chile) to go to that country, instead of travelling north (IOM, 2021b).

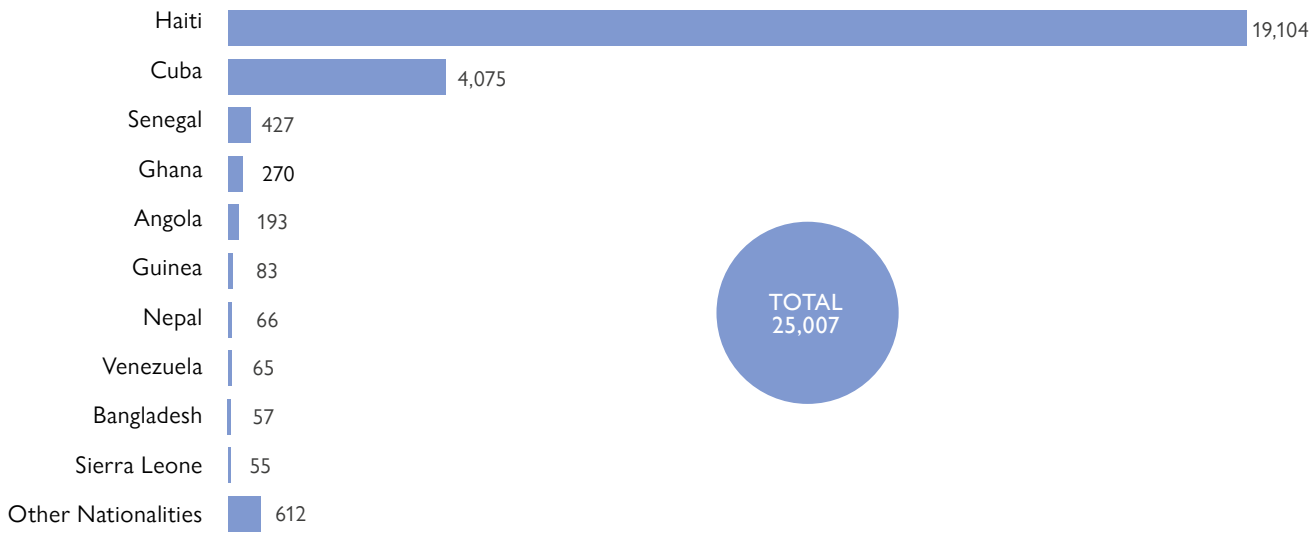
In the case of **Chile**, worsening of the socioeconomic conditions, more difficulties in accessing the mechanisms for migratory regularization and social services, plus the growing feeling of xenophobia/increase in xenophobic discourses suggest that departures from Chile will remain on the rise. In this regard, key informants from the Haitian community have reported plans to migrate at the end of 2021, upon completion of the school year for unaccompanied children.

As of 10 September 2021, around 14 thousand migrants, mostly Haitians, were stranded in Necoclí, **Colombia**, waiting to enter Panama where 500 people are allowed in per day, even though 1,000 to 1,200 migrants arrive every day, which leads to the retaining of nearly 700 migrants daily in Necoclí (Migración Colombia, 2021a).

An alarming and ongoing threat is exposure to migrant smuggling networks to cross international borders and to move internally in transit countries, with what the above entails in terms of risks and exposure to the violation of the rights and physical integrity of migrants.

Indeed, the Colombian migration authority has detected migrants being smuggled by networks, mostly Haitians (60%), followed by Cubans (17%). Likewise, South American, African and Asian nationalities were identified; 98 per cent of the people entered by crossing land borders and 2 per cent, sea and river borders; 67 per cent were men and 33 per cent women (Migración Colombia, 2021a).

Graph 6: Migrants identified as smuggled through networks, by nationality, in the period January 2020–August 2021



Source: Migración Colombia, 2021b.

Once they have crossed the Darien, migrants travel across Panama, under the Controlled Flow Operation, by land, going through Panama City to David in the Province of Chiriqui. At this point, people to voluntarily withdraw from the Controlled Flow Operation and enter Costa Rica irregularly through Paso Canoas (IOM, 2021g).

The international bridge that connects Ciudad Acuña with Del Rio in Texas, on the Rio Bravo River, is one of the main points through which migrants seek to enter the United States. In early September 2021, it was estimated that around 14,000 migrants were at this point in time living in informal camps, in overcrowded conditions, with little access to services and food. According to statements by the United States Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS), by 24 September 2021, the camps under the Del Rio bridge had been removed; additionally in response to the irregular flows of migrants, the authorities confirmed they would continue enforcing returns under Title 42 (returns to the last country of transit or to the country of origin in the interest of public health) of migrants identified at the border. Between the months of July and August 2021, 136 people of Haitian nationality were expelled by the authorities under this Title in the Del Rio area (CBP, 2021).

Additionally, in the period January to August 2021, approximately 17,931 Haitian nationals were arrested by the United States migration authorities in the Del Rio area; the composition of this group suggests that 59 per cent are families and 41 per cent are adults travelling alone. The United States DHS continues to implement regular return flights of Haitian, Mexican and Ecuadorian migrants and nationals from countries in northern Central America. Flights to Haiti depart from San Antonio and Laredo in Texas to the towns of Cap-Haitien and Port-au-Prince in Haiti (DHS, 2021).

Between 19 September and 4 October 2021, 7,099 Haitians were returned from the United States to Haiti. The majority were men (65%), of which 13 per cent were boys. Women accounted for 35 per cent, and 28 per cent of them were girls. Furthermore, from Mexico, the Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands, a total of 128 people were returned to Haiti (IOM, 2021h). Many children have passports from another country, especially from Chile and Brazil. IOM, WHO, UNICEF, OHCHR, the Haitian Red Cross and other agencies are collaborating with the Government of Haiti to provide food and drinks, rapid COVID tests, psychosocial support to children, and to distribute toys, collect and follow-up on complaints, and take health-related measures, among other things.

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